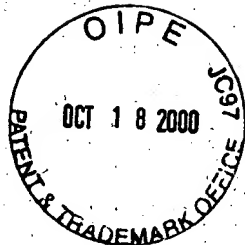


**THORPE,
NORTH &
WESTERN L.L.P.**
SINCE 1979
THE TEAM APPROACH TO PREMIER PERFORMANCE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
PATENTS, TRADEMARKS,
COPYRIGHTS, UNFAIR
COMPETITION AND
RELATED MATTERS



U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/617,376
SALT LAKE AREA OFFICE
8180 SOUTH 700 EAST, SUITE 200
SANDY, UTAH 84070-0562
801.566.6633
801.566.0750 FAX
PATLAW@TNW.COM
WWW.TNW.COM
LAS VEGAS AREA OFFICE
OF COUNSEL: NEIL J. BELLER †
2345 REDROCK STREET, SUITE 310
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89012
702.368.7767
† ADMITTED IN NEVADA

DOCKET NO. 18098-01B
MICHAEL W. STARKWEATHER*
CLIFTON W. THOMPSON*
GARRON M. HOBSON*
PETER M. DE JONGE
WEILI CHENG, PH.D.*
DAVID R. MCKINNEY, PE.*
STEVE M. PERRY*
GARY P. OAKESON*
DAVID W. OSBORNE*
CALVIN E. THORPE
(1939-1999)

*REGISTERED PATENT ATTORNEYS

3749
✓
1023-2
#3
RECEIVED

OCT 20 2000

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:
BEFORE PAYMENT OF ISSUE FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 list of 24 references submitted for consideration.
- ☒ Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- ☐ All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- ☐ Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.

- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- ☒ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the identified prior application which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

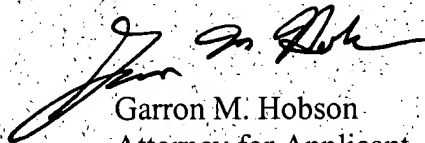
In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- ☐ Promptness Certification.
- ☐ Check No. in the amount of \$ (amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ Petition for Consideration and Check No. in the amount of \$(amount in § 1.17(i)(1)) constituting the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Promptness Certification meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Dated this 16 day of Oct, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



Garron M. Hobson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 41,073

THORPE, NORTH & WESTERN, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, UT 84091-1219
Telephone (801) 566-6633

GMH/ta